

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
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USDA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

UNCLAS BUCHAREST 3176

MOSCOW FOR AGATT - PASS TO SECRETARY BERGLAND
BELGRADE/WARSAW FOR AGATT

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP, RO
SUBJECT: ISSUES ROMANIANS MAY RAISE DURING VISIT OF
SECRETARY BERGLAND

1. AT MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE MEETING WITH MD PLANNING TEAM
MAY 10, DEPUTY MINISTER ION STANCIU RAISED FOLLOWING SUBJECTS
WHICH WILL, IN ALL LIKELIHOOD, BE DISCUSSED WITH SECRETARY
AT WORKING LUNCHEON MAY 23 OR DURING SUBSEQUENT VISITS WITH
THE MINISTER:

A. US-ROMANIAN JOINT VENTURES IN SWINE INDUSTRY - THIS
BASED ON CEAUSESCU/SECRETARY MEETING IN WASHINGTON. STANCIU
ASKED NICHOLS IF WE HAD ANY FIRMS READY TO FORM JOINT VENTURES.
NICHOLS RESPONDED BY SAYING THAT OUR FIRMS WERE PROFIT-ORIENTED
AND THAT THEY WOULD HAVE TO BE SHOWN THAT SUCH VENTURES WERE
VIABLE. STANCIU WAS THEN REQUESTED TO LIST SPECIFIC AREAS OF
COOPERATION ENVISAGED. HE RESPONDED BY LISTING THE FOLLOWING
BROAD CATEGORIES: BREEDING STOCK, PROTEIN FEED COMPONENTS,
PROCESSING EQUIPMENT AND INVESTMENT IN SLAUGHTER HOUSES AND
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PACKAGING, PLUS MARKETING ASSISTANCE. STANCIU ALSO SUGGESTED
CONTINUING USDA INVOLVEMENT IN SUCH VENTURES AND ALLUDED TO
OUR GUARANTEEING A MARKET. NICHOLS RESPONDED THAT STANCIU'S
OBSERVATIONS WOULD BE CONVEYED TO U.S. INDUSTRY. NICHOLS
SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS U.S. FEED GRAINS COUNCIL COULD UNDER-
TAKE PILOT PROJECT TO SHOW U.S. INDUSTRY THAT SUCH VENTURES
WERE FEASIBLE. ROMANIANS RESPONDED THAT THEY WERE NOT INTERESTED

IN PILOT PROJECT, BUT JOINT VENTURE. MINISTER MICULESCU WILL PROBABLY MENTION THIS SUBJECT IN CONTEXT OF U.S. SUPPLYING LONG-TERM CREDITS AND ACCEPTING PORK PRODUCTS IN REPAYMENT.

B. US-ROMANIAN JOINT VENTURES IN SEED MULTIPLICATION BASED ON U.S. GENETIC STOCK - STANCIU RAISED THIS SUBJECT, MENTIONING THAT SEED COULD BE SOLD IN THIRD MARKETS INCLUDING CEMA COUNTRIES. NICHOLS' RESPONSE WAS THAT CERTAIN DIFFICULTIES EXISTED IN ROMANIAN REGULATIONS WHICH MUST BE SURMOUNTED TO INSURE PROTECTION OF U.S. FIRMS' RIGHTS TO PARENT MATERIAL. SUBJECT AGAIN RAISED AT SUBSEQUENT MEETING WITH ROMAGRIMEX FTO WHERE ROMANIANS EXPRESSED NEW WILLINGNESS TO FIND SOLUTION. NICHOLS WILL PURSUE SUBJECT WITH ASTA, WHICH HAD INDUSTRY MISSION IN ROMANIA IN 1977 AND AWARE OF PROBLEM. FYI: ASTA HAS INVITED ROMANIAN SEED TEAM TO U.S. THIS FALL. END FYI.

C. SECRETARY SHOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS CURRENT U.S. CROP SITUATION, PARTICULARLY AS IT PERTAINS TO GRAINS AND SOYBEANS, INCLUDING IMPLICATIONS OF RECENT CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON FARM PROGRAMS.

D. INTERMEDIATE CREDITS - ROMANIANS HIGHLY INTERESTED IN POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING SUCH CREDITS. NICHOLS EXPLAINED THAT THIS SUBJECT WAS ONLY IN EARLY CONGRESSIONAL DISCUSSION STAGE AND THAT BULK COMMODITIES WOULD IN ALL PROBABILITY NOT BE INCLUDED IF LEGISLATION PASSED, BUT POSSIBLY BREEDING CATTLE WOULD BE.

E. DAIRY BREEDING CATTLE - AGREEMENT REGARDING ANIMAL HEALTH REQUIREMENTS OF ROMANIA STILL IN DISCUSSION STAGE.
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APHIS VET MADE NEW PROPOSAL MAY 9 FOR ROMANIAN CONSIDERATION. CURRENTLY, NO U.S. CATTLE CAN ENTER. DEPUTY MINISTER MOLDOVAN WILL MAKE POINT THAT ROMANIA WANTS TO IMPORT CATTLE IMMEDIATELY. (NOTE: HE HAS NOT AS YET CHANGED NEGATIVE ATTITUDE OF HIS VET SERVICE.)

F. ASSISTANCE IN SOY PROCESSING FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION WILL BE RAISED. FYI: ASA HAS A PROTOCOL UNDER WHICH SOME TECHNICAL ADVICE HAS ALREADY BEEN GIVEN. IN ADDITION, RALSTON PURINA HAS HELD RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH ROMANIANS ON SAME SUBJECT. END FYI.

G. THE MINISTER WILL MENTION NEEDED ASSISTANCE IN LAMB FATTENING TECHNOLOGY. FYI: U.S.FEED GRAINS COUNCIL ALREADY WORKING IN THIS AREA AS PART OF THEIR PROTOCOL WITH MIN. OF AGRICULTURE. END FYI.

H. RENDERING INDUSTRY - THE MINISTER WILL MENTION NEEDED ASSISTANCE IN RENDERING TECHNOLOGY. FYI: THE NRA HAS A TEAM IN ROMANIA LAST FALL AND ANOTHER IS DUE IN JUNE TO DISCUSS COOPERATION. END FYI.

2. CCC CREDITS - THIS SUBJECT MAY BE RAISED, BUT IN GENERAL TERMS. ROMANIANS NOT CLEAR AT THIS POINT IN TIME AS TO WHAT AMOUNT AND COMMODITIES, IF ANY, MAY BE REQUESTED DURING FY 79.

MINISTER MICULESCU WILL MENTION PERMANENT IMPORT REQUIREMENTS
OF 100-200,000M.T. SOYBEANS EACH YEAR IF CREDITS ARE AVAILABLE.

3. MEAT INSPECTION - ONE OF FOUR CERTIFIED PLANTS CURRENTLY
HAVING REJECTION PROBLEMS DUE DISCOVERY UNDERCOOKED PORK
PRODUCTS BY USDA INSPECTORS. ANOTHER PLANT COULD BE DELISTED
IN FUTURE IF STRUCTURAL DEFECTS NOT RECTIFIED PRIOR BEGINNING
EXPORT. ROMANIANS FULLY AWARE CORRECTIVE MEASURES REQUIRED
AND TAKING ACTION.

4. FOR LOOPER- WHAT INFORMATION COVERAGE DESIRED? EMBASSY
INFORMATION OFFICER (JOEL LEVY) WILL MEET YOU UPON ARRIVAL
AND DISCUSS SUBJECT ON WAY TO HOTEL.

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